



Yuut Elitnaurviat

PEOPLE'S LEARNING CENTER

Executive Director's Summary

Tenth Anniversary Edition
Volume 3, Issue 4
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**Executive Director
Kurt Kuhne**

When I became Executive Director of Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) in 2009, we had five employees, and were training about 150 people per year. We were just finishing creating and constructing Yuut Elitnaurviat. In the seven or so years before, YE's Board of Directors, previous Executive Directors, (Janelle Vanasse, Carlton Kuhns and Lamont Albertson), along with YE's original (and current) employee Tiffany Tony, had

turned the vision into reality. As a result of their amazing effort, YE now has a state of the art trades shop, two twenty bed dormitories, and an administrative and classroom building that includes a cafeteria and a dental training clinic. Additionally, we are adding wind generators and solar panel arrays on campus this summer, and are expecting to have a new dormitory constructed by 2013. We have gone from five employees in 2009 to sixteen today- with many additional contractors providing training and tutoring. This year, over two-thousand people were served at Yuut Elitnaurviat, which is pretty amazing.

The Future of Yuut Elitnaurviat

Though we have been transitioning from building to operating, we are not totally done building. Yuut Elitnaurviat just recently received an appropriation from the State to build a large bunkhouse dormitory. Additionally, with Donlin Gold going to permitting, and anticipating a large volume of training needs, we plan on building additional infrastructure- like a heavy equipment

and welding shop, additional dormitories and additional classroom space. Programmatically, we plan to expand our offerings in Law Enforcement, Health Care, Drivers Education with our Commercial Driver License (CDL) program, and Construction Trades, and will be pursuing Tribal College Status and Accreditation.



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Partner Organizations

- AVCP (since 2002)
- AVCP-RHA (since 2002)
- BCSF (since 2004)
- Calista (since 2004)
- City of Bethel (since 2002)
- UAF-KuC (since 2002)
- LKSD (since 2002)
- National Guard (since 2002)
- ONC (since 2002)
- YKHC (since 2002)

A Brief History of Yuut Elitnaurviat



**Operations Director
(and Original Yuut
Elitnaurviat Employee)
Tiffany Tony**

Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) has obviously come a long way over the years. It is hard to remember sometimes that in the late 90's YE was little more than a lofty idea. The YK Delta had suffered repeated fishing disasters and Bethel had been the site of the first school shooting in the Nation. In response to the struggles our community faced, leaders from multiple agencies came together and envisioned Yuut Elitnaurviat as a way to address many of our socio-economic needs.

In 2002 the vision started to take shape and YE became a legal entity. Janelle Vanasse had been the grant writer for the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) and she took the great ideas of our community leaders and turned them into a structured vision. Janelle was appointed Executive Director and began the arduous process of creating the entire infrastructure our newly formed organization needed. When Janelle started there was not a program, not a road, not a staff, not an office. It is hard to imagine how overwhelming it is to take an idea and muscle it into a functional tangible reality. I was the first person Janelle hired and to me she is the visionary that set our purpose and established a culture of "YE is necessary and YE will become a reality".

During Janelle's time at YE we started securing funds to construct our campus, the city jump-started our existence by generously donating 10 acres of land, and we started developing and delivering training programs. We were in office space generously loaned to us by YKHC, LKSD also

hosted our accounting records, our salaries were paid through partner organizations, we had to borrow space every time we held a training and we had to house students all over town. It was not the most efficient model early on, but we made it work and we slowly started building our reputation for excellence as we were building our campus. Our early success was a testament to what real partnership and cooperation can do. We relied heavily on our partner agencies and they helped incubate YE as it grew.

In 2004, former BRHS Principal, Carlton Kuhns came on as our second Executive Director. By this time we had completed site work for our campus and were proceeding with our first construction endeavor; the Construction Trades Shop. When I think back to Carlton he was our rock. He was one of the most dedicated, forthright, honest, hardworking person I have ever met. He left YE with the idea that if we are meticulous stewards of our funding and deliver excellent programs, our reputation will always speak for itself. Carlton demonstrated that you work until the job is done to perfection and to never miss a detail. The Shop came online in February 2005 and we finally had our own building to use for trades classes.

In fall 2005, retired Aniak Principal, LaMont Albertson became YE's third Executive Director. LaMont brought a confident swagger to our endeavor. He said things would happen and nothing stood in his way. He would sit on the doorstep of a legislator if he thought it might help secure funding we needed to complete our construction. He also never met a bureaucrat he could not sidestep to get things done. LaMont taught us how to sell our success so that our projects could continue to move forward. LaMont made

sure we were known statewide as an up and coming force to be reckoned with.

In December 2007 our first two dormitories were constructed as well as the Shell and Core of our Technical Education and Support Services (TESS) building. We also began our relationship with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and decided to customize a dental clinic in the TESS building for the Dental Health Aide Therapy Program (DHAT). At the time the DHAT program was very politically charged. We welcomed them to have their clinical year here with us in Bethel and have never looked back. DHAT students benefit from the patient base we can provide and our community loves that they can get appointments. We secured a temporary clinic for the first cohort of students in 2008 and thank Bethel Native Corporation for helping us with that endeavor.

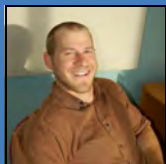
In 2009 the TESS building was finally completed and we were able to move our growing staff, we had grown from two to five by 2009, into our permanent home in the TESS building. DHAT was able to move into their permanent clinic and in the fall we adopted the regional Adult Basic Education Center.

In the summer of 2009 Kurt Kuhne became our fourth Executive Director and with his human resources background helped us with our transition onto campus. Our program numbers rose from 120 people in 2008 to over 2,000 in 2011. We now also boast a staff of sixteen and continue to expand the programs we piloted early on. We pride ourselves on being responsive to the needs of the YK Delta and continue to expand our facilities and infrastructure. We will be adding alternative power systems this summer and will have a third dormitory by the fall of 2013.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the support of the YK Delta, our partner organizations, and all the students who have worked with us over the years.



Programs Director's Summary



Programs Director Jeremy Osborne

When I started working here in August of 2010, the programs side of Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) consisted of two main grants. In September of 2009, YE had received it's fifth major grant from the Department of Education's Alaska Native Education Program. This three year, \$1.7 million grant formed the basis for the Certificate in Construction and Maintenance program we offer today.

In July of 2010 YE received a Community Based Training grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor which allowed us to add two staff to our Career Guide Services Dept., and expand our Driver Education, Healthcare, and Public Safety programs. In September 2011 we got another Alaska Native Education which allowed us to put rural Adult Basic Education facilitators in ten YK Delta Villages. Along with College Readiness that gives us seven program departments at YE, and we're hoping to keep having trainings in them for as long as we can.

This Quarter in Programs

Since we don't have a whole newsletter to dedicate to Programs like we usually do, I'll just give you some quick updates program by program:

Adult Basic Education

The current tally of 2012 Graduates is at 68 people!

Career Guide Services

The Career Guides went to Anvik, Emmonak, Grayling, Holy Cross, Napaskiak, Shageluk and Tuluksak this quarter.



Yuut Elitnaurviat's Groundbreaking ceremony for the Training, Education, & Support Services (TESS) Building

Photo courtesy of Margaret Herron

College Readiness

5 RANSEP students completed their semester in Bethel.

Construction Trades

9 students received the Yuut Elitnaurviat Certificate in Construction and Maintenance.

Driver Education

39 people have gotten their Driver License this quarter and 4 people have gotten their CDL.

Healthcare

DHAT Students will be back July 16th and they will be scheduling appointments. at that time. Call (907) 543-0987 to make one.

4 students from the PCA-CNA bridge class passed their state exam and became State Certified CNAs!

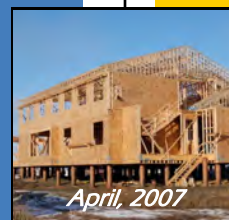
Public Safety

40 students completed TPO/VPO Academy #24.

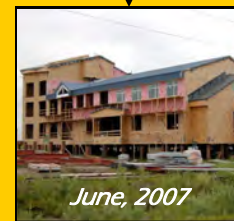
The Future of Programs

In my opinion, one of the most amazing things about Yuut Elitnaurviat (YE) is how quickly we can adapt. If one of our partner organizations comes to us and says "Hey, we really need training in _____", we can start seeking funding, finding instructors, booking space in our facility, and in rare cases, writing curriculum. I think this makes us able to be very responsive to the needs of the region, and will make us relevant for years to come.

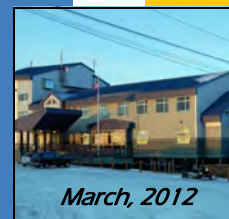
In the future, we will continue trying to establish a full Commercial Driving School, and continue to build on our Personal Care Attendant to Certified Nurses Aide (PCA-CNA) Bridge Class. We also anticipate more involvement with the Alaska Department of Public Safety, a more specialized Construction Trades Certificate, and larger College Readiness (RANSEP) cohorts.



April, 2007



June, 2007



March, 2012

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Preparing Local Workers for Local High-Wage Jobs For the Last Ten Years



*Please remember to vote
for us July 18th, 2012*



As of May 14, 2012, Yuut Elitnaurviat is one of 500 finalists nationwide in the Toyota 100 Cars for Good Competition. On Wednesday July 18th, America will vote for Yuut Elitnaurviat or one of four other organizations to win a new Toyota vehicle. If we win, we will receive a new Toyota vehicle for use by our Driver Education Program, and Bethel and our organization will receive positive national attention. If we lose, we get \$ 1,000 for being a finalist - which will go towards four \$250 Driving Academy Scholarships. We win either way, but we'd really like to win the new vehicle!

You can help us win the new vehicle by:

1. Logging onto Facebook and searching for 100 Cars for Good.
2. Once on the 100 Cars for Good page, you will see the vote tab up towards the top of the page. Click on the "Vote" tab.
3. Take the cursor and click on "Day 66" in July. This will bring up the five organizations, which include Yuut Elitnaurviat for July 18th voting.
4. Click on Yuut Elitnaurviat and look to the left for a tab labeled "Remind Me". You can click that to set up a reminder to vote on July 18th.
5. Just under that "Remind Me" tab is a "Share" option, which will allow you to share the link on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. Please tell all your friends and help us win a new car! You can also check us out on Facebook or on our website at www.yuut.org to see the video and the directions again.

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Yuut Elitnaurviat is a 501(c)(3) Corporation dedicated to providing training and education opportunities for the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Yuut offers culturally relevant and regionally responsive training programs, in response to the suffering regional economy and high unemployment rate.

Building programs that combine intensive academics and on-the-job training, Yuut is the first regional vocational center to grace the tundra of Western Alaska.